

# Sports Outlook

## Sports of '87

### It was a year of turmoil and thrills

By George Robinson

NEW YORK (NEA) — It was a year of turmoil and thrills in sports.

From the contentiousness of the America's Cup, to the furor over minorities in baseball and the disruptions of the NFL strike, 1987 left nearly everybody angry about something.

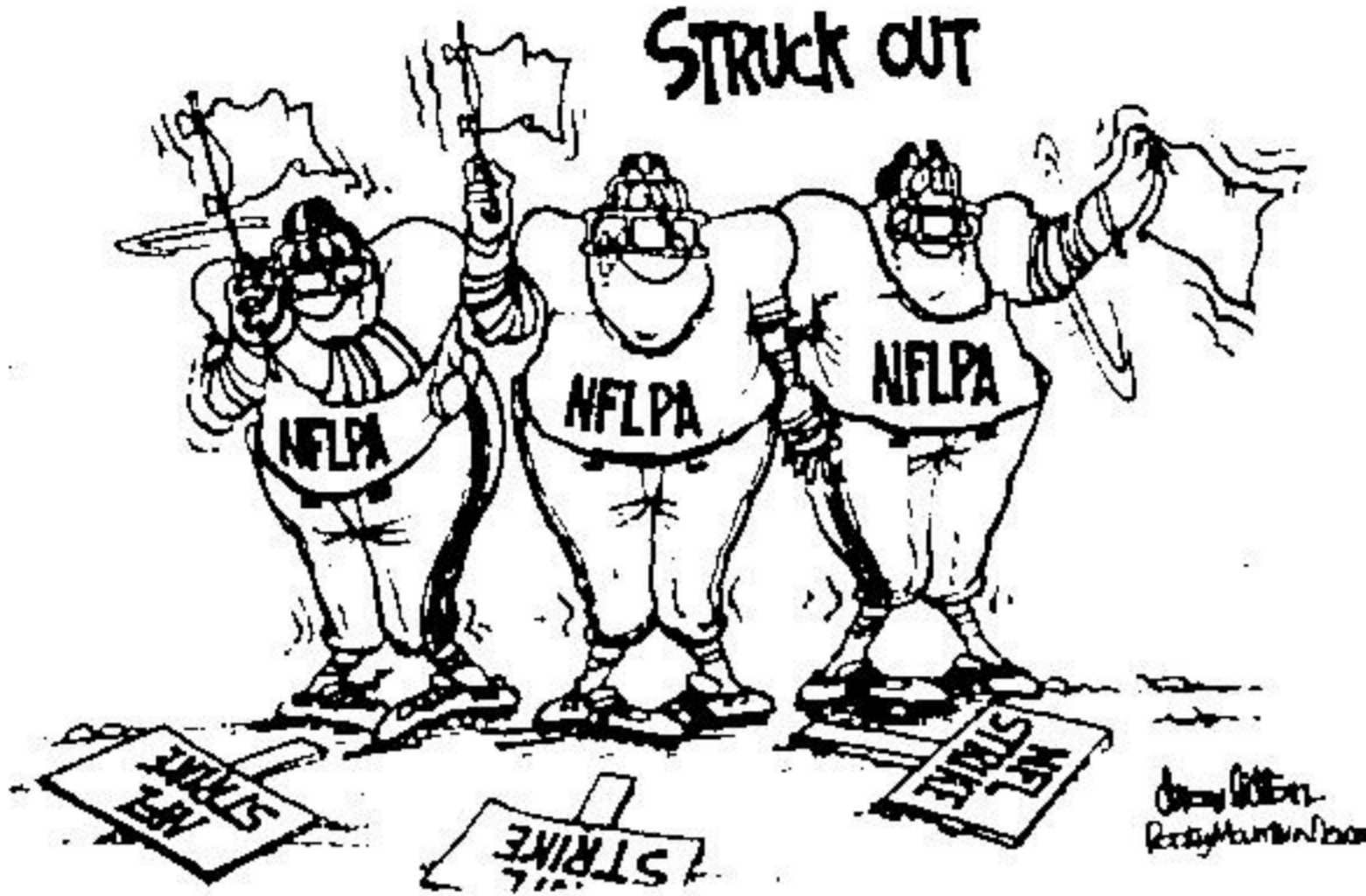
In the order of their impact in the world of sports, here are the 10 biggest stories of 1987:

1. **The NFL Players' Strike.** If any event of the year had a lasting impact, this was it. It was argued that the strikers accomplished little, if anything. Others said the owners, by using replacements and refusing to allow strikers to return for the game following the end of the walkout, displayed contempt for their employees — and the fans. Moreover, the inclusion of "scab" games in the NFL standings tainted the entire playoff process, including the Super Bowl.

2. **The America's Cup.** It was reported that as Stars and Stripes sailed for the finish line one last time in the 4-0 U.S. blitz in Australia, Dennis Conner cried. If so, the tears of joy were well-earned. So was the skipper's redemption, as he reclaimed what had been lost three years before. Whether Conner and the San Diego Yacht Club can keep the Cup may be up to the courts.

3. **Leonard vs. Hagler.** How many so-called superflights live up to their billing? The Sugar Ray Leonard-Marvelous Marvin Hagler brawl did. It was all action. And, for much of the fight, the action was all Leonard. When Hagler woke up, the result was a classic round nine. But Hagler lost his middleweight championship despite Leonard's long absence from the ring.

4. **The Masters.** No other golf tournament is as steeped in mythology as the Masters. The 1987 edition in Augusta, Ga., added another legend. Hometown boy Larry Mize won his first major tournament on a 100-foot chip shot, beating Greg Norman and Seve Ballesteros in a three-way playoff. Golf Magazine called it "the shot of the year." Mize's reaction, his body jackknifing into the air, club held aloft, will be remembered as long as



the shot.

5. **The 100-yard dash record.** Ben Johnson has quietly turned into the best sprinter in the world. The taciturn Canadian blew right by Carl Lewis at the World Track and Field Championships in Rome. Johnson set a new world record for the 100-yard dash: 9.83 seconds.

6. **The Indianapolis 500.** Al Unser didn't even have a ride for the Indy 500 as practices rolled around. His old pal Roger Penske had dropped him in favor of younger drivers. But when Danny Ongais smashed into a wall, Penske hired Unser once more. Unser became the oldest winner in Indy history: he was 47 years and 360 days old on race day. It was his fourth Indy victory.

7. **The NCAA basketball tournament.** Against Syracuse, Keith Smart sank a jumper with only seconds left on the clock to give Indiana's Hoosiers their fifth national title — and third under fiery Bobby Knight. It was sweet revenge for the controversy over the book about Knight, "A Season on the Brink."

8. **The World Series.** It wasn't pretty, but the Twins finally won a title for the state of Minnesota. It was the first Series played partly in a domed stadium, and the first in which all seven games were won by the home team. The Twins were the worst team

(only 85 regular-season wins) ever to win the Series. To do so, they had to get past the victors in the two toughest divisions in baseball, the AL East Detroit Tigers and the NL East St. Louis Cardinals.

9. **Wimbledon.** Will Ivan Lendl ever win this title? In '87, it was the mercurial Pat Cash who beat him. Cash was brilliant through the fortnight. He lost only one set during the entire tournament. In the final, he made a mere 11 unforced errors, while holding serve nine times. Unlike Lendl, Cash is impulsive and emotional. That produced the most moving moment of the tourney, when the victorious Cash climbed into the stands to embrace his father.

10. **The Kentucky Derby.** The Derby had an enormous field and a chaotic start. Chris McCarron and Alysheba were bumped repeatedly after leaving the gate. In the first turn, several horses slammed into one another. Finally, in the most dramatic moment of the race, with some 80 yards to go, Bet Twice, ridden by Craig Perret, swerved in front of Alysheba, who stumbled. McCarron practically willed the bay colt to stay on its feet. It did, and it passed Bet Twice to win the Derby by three-quarters of a length.

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## Berry's World



Jim Berry  
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"How would you and your team like to go to the Persian Gulf?"

### Pre-school play

Parents, have you seen the newly decorated Prospect Park Pavilion? It is set up for our Pre-School Playshop Program. Barb Robinson and Linda Neary have a wide range of activities planned for this age group. Once people have participated in this program they return each season: the older age time slots are full but we still have spaces for the younger age group on Monday afternoons, 1 to 3:30 p.m., commencing January 4, so why not consider joining us. Call the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department, at 877-5185 ext. 260 for more information.

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## Hamilton selected to host Seagram awards

A total of \$50,000 will be given to amateur sports in Canada at the 15th annual Seagram's Five Star Awards dinner, which will be held in Hamilton, Ont., next spring. Raynald H. Doin, Chairman of the committee administering the program, announced recently.

"Part of our commitment when the awards program was inaugurated was that the annual dinner would be held in different cities across the country," said Mr. Doin, who is Executive Vice-President, Marketing, Joseph E. Seagram and Sons, Limited.

"Previous dinners have been held in Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax and Calgary. The fifth will take place at the Sheraton Hamilton on the night of next March 22."

Judges from Ontario include Perc Allen of CHML-Radio in Hamilton; Donald Upgrove of The Spectator, Hamilton; Al Sokol, columnist for The Toronto Star; and Brian Williams of CBC-TV, Toronto.

Seagram makes a contribution of \$10,000 to each of the national sports

governing bodies represented by the winners, for a total of \$50,000 in grants each year. With the awards for 1987, the total donated will reach \$250,000.

For 1983, the inaugural year, winners were swimmer Alex Baumann, Alpine skier Todd Brooker, boxer Willie de Wit, the national women's field hockey team and the national men's basketball team.


Winners in 1984 were Baumann again, diver Sylvie Bernier, speed skater Gaetan Boucher, the Canadian Olympic heavyweight eight rowing crew and the entire Canadian team that competed at the Summer Olympic Games.

In 1985, the honourees were Alpine

skier Laurie Graham, sprinter Ben Johnson, synchronized swimmer Carolyn Waldo, the Al Hackner curling rink and the national soccer team.

A number of those honored to date have been Ontario athletes, including Baumann (Sudbury), Brooker (Paris), Graham (Inglewood), Johnson (Toronto) and the Hackner rink from Thunder Bay. In addition, Ontario has been well represented on all the award-winning teams, including two coaches — Marina van der Merwe (Toronto) of the national women's field hockey team (1983) and Jack Donohue (Kanata) of the national

men's basketball team (1983). Joseph E. Seagram and Sons, Limited is the domestic operating company of the Canadian multinational corporation.



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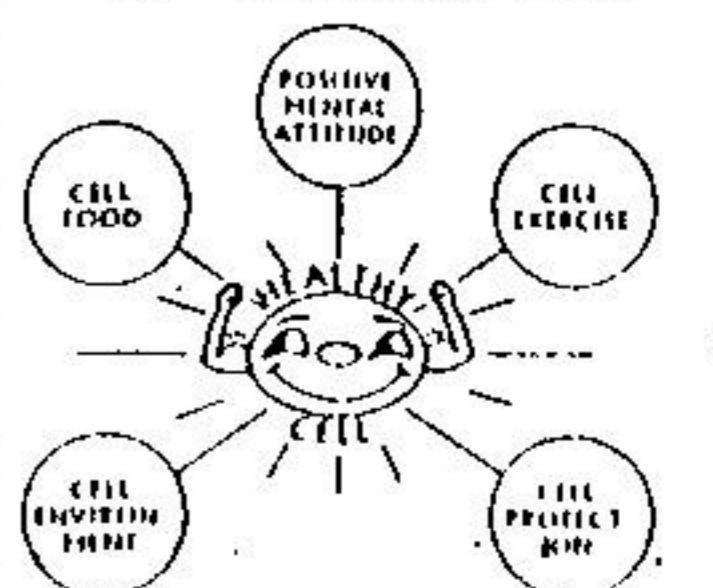
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